Govenrment is committed to encouraging medical research activities by the Indian Council of Medical Research. An amount of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed during the Xlth Five Year Plan in order to give an impetus to research activities of ICMR including augmentation of its human resource, modernization of infrastructure, improvement of career prospects for the staff of ICMR and other related issues.

Artificial health valve

4053. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether improved version of India's first artificial heart valve "Citra" has ben devised;

(b) if so, the approximae cost thereof; and

(c) the action taken to produce it on large scale to help poor heart patients needing artificial valve implantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) an improved version of India's heart valve, the TTK-Citra Valve is at an advanced stage of development and testing under a collaborative project between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvanthapuram and TTK Halthcare Ltd., Chennai with the financial support of DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology under their PASTER Scheme. The new version is expected to enter the clinicial evaluation phase during the last quarter of 2007. The manufactured price of the new model is expected to be the same as the present model. TTK Healthcare Ltd. has set up a new plant in Thiruvanthapuram with increased capacity to take care of the requirement.

Non-availability of doctors in CGHS Dispensary

4054. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no ayurveda doctor available at CGHS Dispensary No. 73 since December, 2006;